

to Haldane Lord Rosebery became Chancellor of the newly-constituted London University, and, from 1900 on Sidney Webb was a member of its Senate, and a most active member. It is as a matter of fact about another committee of which he was a member—the Board of Governors of the Imperial College of Science and Technology at South Kensington—that the following story is told but it illustrates aptly, his functioning on the London Senate or on any committee of the kind

" On one occasion, a matter of great importance to the college was discussed in the absence of Sidney Webb. A decision was practically agreed upon, but, at the last moment it was thought best to take a formal vote upon it at the following meeting. Sidney Webb, considering the decision to be wrong, attended the meeting and before the matter was put to the vote, spoke for half an hour, giving a multitude of reasons why the decision should be reconsidered. He swung the majority round to his opinion and, as a crowning mercy, he brought Lord Halsbury, then a hale and hearty die-hard of over seventy, to his feet in a speech in his support "

Thanks largely to him, development followed the lines that he and Haldane had planned for it. These lines are cogently set out in an article he wrote for *The Nineteenth Century* in 1903. Secure in the anonymity that masked this, as so many other parts of his work for London, he can there say

"It is a tribute to the far-sighted statesmanship of those who drafted the present scheme of reorganisation, and also to the prudent catholicity which has marked its present administration, that the University of London, only five years ago an isolated examining Board, without professors, students, colleges or local connexions of any kind, forms to-day an integral

part of the
London education system "

He sees London's university as having a
definite character
of its own " Being, as regards its
undergraduate class,
essentially a university for the sons and
daughters of house-
holds of limited means and strenuous lives,"
it must not
try to "skim off the cream," but must aim at
gathering in
students by the thousands It must be a
"technical school